

# The Labour Organiser

No. 193

JULY, 1937

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## INQUEST AND VERDICT

BY-ELECTION  
CROWNERS  
QUEST

BY

JACK CUTTER

The second half of the year has begun and the time is opportune for a little stocktaking.

The *Daily Mail* is indulging in a little whoopee over 12 by-election "successes" for the Government and telling the old ladies of all ages and both sexes who regard that peculiar journal as worth reading that the country has no use for the Labour Party. The *Times* says the same thing in more ponderous platitudes. The *Daily Telegraph*, as usual, follows suit, and A. J. Cummings, of the *News Chronicle*, shakes a reproachful head and, more in sorrow than in anger, goes about prophesying defeat and telling us our "by-election technique" is all wrong.

(And by the way, isn't it time somebody had a wipe at this chap Cummings? His insufferable self-satisfaction, his know-all poses, his dismal defeatism and his pose as the High Priest of apologists for Democracy are a weariness to the flesh. Can't somebody pension him off, or something? Democracy would be all the healthier for the retirement of some of its superior, pecksniffian pals.)

And now to resume, much refreshed.

As I was saying, the Press would once more have us believe that we are in a bad way with the undertaker lingering his measuring tape and shaking his head over that awkward

bend in the stairs. It's an old Fleet Street custom and it gives the boys something to write about in the silly season.

The by-election results are not good and it would be stupid to regard them with any satisfaction, but it would be equally stupid to take them as signs that there is overwhelming enthusiasm for Neville's Government and public indifference to the Labour Party. Certain factors are important. First, of course, is the fact that most of the Divisions in which by-elections took place were hand-picked by the Tory Party and arose out of Coronation Honours and Government changes. Each of them had a hefty anti-Labour majority less than two years old—and these two years have been spent in mounting toward the crest of the armaments boom.

Secondly, there is the fact that we had to fight election campaigns costing our opponents about £1,000 each on an average of £400 a contest—by no means an unimportant fact.

Thirdly, there was the dying register—a very important consideration, meaning only a little extra trouble and a few more cars to our opponents, but a pretty stiff hurdle to us. In one Division fought last month there were over 20,000 removals! Twenty thousand, I repeat, in case you think the printer has made a mistake. And the

majority of the byes were in county Divisions, where a removal is not a matter of canvassing a new housing estate, but a transfer miles and miles away.

Fourthly, there is the point that summer-time elections may have their advantages, but they invariably result in lower polls.

In all these circumstances we need not be unduly upset nor surprised at lowered polls. Our opponents' drops are much more heavy than ours and they have more cause for alarm on that score than we have.

The lugubrious ones will say that all this is dangerous complacency and "ignoring the writing on the wall" and what not. I was up to the eyes in two by-elections in the recent spate (with Labour vote increases in both, by the way), so my opinion is not an armchair dissertation. From those experiences I submit the following conclusions:—

Our campaigns are more vigorous and forceful than our opponents'. Our policy is positive; theirs negative. Ours based on the virile 10-point programme; theirs on the negative angle summed up thus: "After all, we are not doing so bad. No Government is perfect, but we have avoided a war in a dangerous situation, and things at home are obviously much better than they were." This, with a little bogey-bogey stuff of the "remember 1931" type was easier to get over than our new ideas and new programme which has not yet trickled through to a populace quite naturally sceptical of programmes and understandingly suspicious of anything new.

Despite our superior electioneering we just couldn't make the grade against the plausible blah of our opponents plus the fear of taking any risks on the part of the electorate, who either refrained from voting in doubt or voted National thinking they were playing safe.

I am more convinced than ever, seeing how near we got to a swing-over, that our chance is not far away. Indeed I seriously believe that the Great Campaign is our opportunity. Let us get the Programme across during the rest of this year by every means in our power, and I sincerely believe that the by-elections arising out of the New Year's Honours List—hand-picked though they will again be—will show vastly different results.

I mean it, brother.

## ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY N.E.C.

June 23rd, 1937

BERKS.: Windsor.—Mr. N. Bartlett, 5, Yew Tree Road, W.12.

HANTS.: Winchester.—Mr. R. Mark, 2, Widley Rd., Stamshaw, Portsmouth.

KENT.: Isle of Thanet.—Mr. F. W. Mellanby, "Colombo," Alpha Rd., Birchington, Kent.

LANCS.: Blackpool.—Mr. H. Thornycroft, 112, Church St., Newton Heath, Manchester 10.

Manchester, Moss Side.—Mr. W. D. Griffiths, 1, Delhi Grove, Greenheys, Manchester.

NORTHUMB.: Hexham.—Mr. Willard Sexton, Goldsmith Buildings, Temple, E.C.4.

WARWICK.: Rugby.—Mr. A. E. Millett, Glandore, Shepherd's Way, Rickmansworth, Herts.

YORKS.: North Leeds.—Mr. J. Huddleston, 80, Bentley Lane, Leeds, 6.

GLAM.: Cardiff South.—Sir Wm. Jowitt, K.C., 1, Brick Court, Temple, E.C.

SOUTH MIDLOTHIAN AND PEEBLES.: Mr. David Pryde, 36, Polton St., Bonnyrigg, Midlothian.

## ADDITIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CANDIDATES

LONDON.: Battersea South.—Mrs. C. S. Ganley, 5, Thirsk Rd., S.W.11.

YORKS.: Bradford South.—Mr. M. F. Titterington, 38, Moorland Crescent, Menston-in-Wharfedale, Yorks.

# Questions Answered Here

The Editor invites readers to send in queries of general interest on organisational and technical matters. Queries for which a reply is desired the same month, should reach us by 6th of the month.



# DESIGN

Last week's issue of "The Listener" carried an interesting survey of an enquiry into industrial art in England. Dr. Pevsner, under the auspices of the University of Birmingham, and the results of which enquiry have recently been published.

Nine out of ten readers will probably wonder what on earth this subject may have to do with Labour organisation. We, however, are of the opinion that a study of public taste has a tremendous lot to do with both the propaganda and the organising methods of a Party which sets out to woo the majority of the electorate. And it is in these backwaters of technical research and knowledge that we sometimes discover material of great significance to be put in our work.

To do a little research work of our own: What is the technical secret behind the success of Herbert Morrison's latest posters? Certainly the secret is not merely that they are posters, for big posters have been before, with other people, and they have not mattered much, as we show in another article in this issue.

Does it not occur that DESIGN has most to do with the matter, whether intentional or intuitive, and whether the skill be that of the customer (i.e., Herbert himself), a layout man, or the printer's devil?

The striking reproduction of Mr. Morrison's features has given a "pull" which no such wall adornment has carried for a long time. Why? Is it because Herbert's thoughtful and forceful lines command the beholder and demand attention to the message? Not this, dear reader, or at any rate, not this alone. And anybody who wanted to start a beauty contest and to rival this poster with a fairer face would not succeed so well.

The secret first of all lies in *originality*; and the discovery that our modern

public thirsts for "something different" is no new thing. It is the *application* of our knowledge of public taste which matters.

The next point is that the public to-day like a flesh-and-blood trademark. If confirmation is needed of this statement, go to the fount of advertising itself, for we find confirmation of this statement in the current issue of "Advertising Monthly"—another backwater for those who study method in propaganda. Either in poster or magazine advertising it is the live figure which the public seems to desire and the fact that advertising agents are increasingly adopting this method seems to indicate that it pays. And it was not always so.\*

That this question of public taste may be one for experiment goes without saying,

but few of our readers can afford to experiment. They must profit from the experience of others.

It should not be assumed that the study of this question is confined to posters, folders and the ordinary ruck of printed matter. Our readers are advised to go deeper into the matter than that. They should realise that in a sense we are salesmen; that we have something to learn from those who also have to capture the public eye. We both seek profit, but of a different kind.

Public taste changes. The age of the ornate is no longer with us, and the public must be reached by means that are direct, forceful, simple, restrained, and which yet conform to modern ideas of grace and beauty.

Take a walk along the shop fronts. The muddled and massed presentation

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\* Though only one poster is referred to here our readers will of course recollect that the London Labour Party issued a series of illustrated posters all of them effective and on modern lines. Indeed it may be seriously suggested that these posters set a standard and made the running for the advertising world itself.

## and MODERN TASTE

of goods is gone or going. The modern trader presents a few good lines and stakes his reputation on them just as Labour wisely no longer muddles the minds of electors with voluminous remedies for social ills, but presents as a token its "Immediate Programme."

Step *inside* the shops. If you have no favourite brand of cigarettes what is the particular appeal of this or that packet? Is it not *design* that has caught you out and attracted your attention? Equally so in a china shop; at the tailors, and especially so in the chocolate shop to which you take your lady?

The chemist has studied the same lesson—most of them have in fact, and we shall come back from our tour quite convinced that there is, after all, something in understanding how to catch the passer-by, and to please him with our appeal.

But that is not all. Fortunes have been built, or, at any rate, great success out of a simple discovery concerning the shape of a package, the wrapping of an article, and the ease and simplicity with which a customer gets at his kernel.

Apply this. Does it not occur that there are lessons to be learnt by us in the make-up of our pamphlets, for instance; their tint, layout, "feel" and presentation of contents? Indeed, may it not be suggested that the public needs a great deal of coaxing to read a pamphlet, and as we have a lot yet to learn by way of compelling attention and inducing consumption, maybe fame awaits the ingenious mind who can discover a new form of pamphlet and a short cut to consumption.

This article is not so much a study of public taste as a plea for a study of the subject, and we shall not feel that we have succeeded in our object if the impression is gathered that this matter is all a question of literature.

To return to the shops. How do Labour's premises, where we have a policy to sell, ordinarily compare with those premises which supply other public needs?

The up-to-date trader has long realised that the public like brightness, lights, attractions. We have *not* recognised this.

Labour has a long way to go if it is to make up leeway in this direction. Reliance on the older methods of the platform and the pamphlet are not carrying us to success at the rate we

should wish to go. We must modernise.

Equally there must be a greater realisation that despite the rush of modern life this is an age of leisure, and if we get holidays with pay, and shorter hours through, there will be more leisure still. Public taste demands enjoyment. It passes by the street corner-spouter for the carnival and the football field.

Here then is a problem it would pay us to study. Is the leisure we have helped to create to be a means for our defeat, or shall we as a Party cater for men's leisure as well as for their serious hours? There is a powerful lot to be said for the gala, the sports field, the seaside trip, the dance and all that.

For is it not written SOCIALISM IS LIFE?

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# CONFERENCE

## RESOLUTIONS FOR BOURNEMOUTH

The forthcoming annual conference of the Labour Party, which is to be held at the Pavilion, Bournemouth, from Monday, October 4th, to Friday, October 8th, under the Chairmanship of Hugh Dalton, M.P., promises to be one of the most interesting and important conferences from the point of view of Local Labour Parties which has been held for some years.

The resolutions sent in for the agenda have now been published, and the list teems with resolutions sent in by Divisional Labour Parties themselves. No fewer than 80 amendments to the constitution were sent in on one point alone, but these 80 amendments do not appear in the published list as the Executive themselves have put forward an amendment on similar lines. The rest of the list is, however, formidable enough, and the interest of constituency Parties in Party work may perhaps be indicated by the fact that the number of resolutions sent in by them total 345 (counting duplicates and the 80 above referred to (against a total of 26 sent in by all other organisations.

Under the present standing orders of the Party only two resolutions for the Annual Conference may be sent in by any one affiliated organisation. One effect of this limitation has been that certain Parties have sent in omnibus resolutions which leave an awkward choice to delegates who may favour one section of the resolution and not the other. This matter may be straightened up by later amendments, but it is certain that some motions would have been best expressed under two heads.

That the National Executive of the Labour Party has gone a long way to meet the widespread discontent which followed the last Conference is undoubted, and some of the E.C.'s proposals seem revolutionary and surprising in view of past decisions. One

presumes that they will be able to carry the Trades Union vote with them, and indeed as we write we understand that an endeavour is being made to put these things plainly and properly before the Trades Unions.

The great concession is of course the decision of the National E.C. to recommend Conference to alter the constitution of the Party so that constituency representatives on the National E.C. shall be elected solely by the votes of constituency representatives. This very decision may affect the seats of some members of the present Executive.

It was on this matter that the aforementioned 80 resolutions were sent in. At the same time, constituency representatives are to be increased from 5 to 7, and the same principle of selection and election is to be extended to the Trades Union Section of the E.C. and the Socialist, Co-operative and Professional Section. The women members are to continue to be elected by the whole conference.

The National E.C. also propose to abolish the ex officio representation of the League of Youth. We were really never able to understand how this anomalous representation ever came to be accorded, and it seemed to give the Youth representation in the worst possible way.

Future Annual Conferences will, if another proposal carries, be held at Whitsuntide instead of in October.

Another National E.C. proposal is to allow constituency Parties to appoint the delegate of their County Federation or Borough (in divided boroughs) to act as a proxy for the exercise of the constituency vote. While this proposal is probably put forward as some concession to objections regarding the block vote, it does not seem to us half so good as some concrete proposal which would facilitate or reduce the cost to

constituency Parties of attendance at Annual Conference. We doubt whether the proposal will be popular.

Though the above proposals account for a number of necessary constitutional amendments, they by no means appear to satisfy the varied demands of constituency Parties.

Clay Cross puts forward an important and, we believe, a useful and necessary amendment, which would permit constituency Parties to be represented at Annual Conference on the basis of their individual and affiliated members. This proposal we think will receive considerable support.

East Surrey desires to increase the national affiliation fee to sixpence per member—just 17 years after the Editor of this journal made a similar proposal at a Conference of Labour Agents. In that case, and at that time, such resolution might have made possible another amendment, which is put forward by the Bermondsey Labour Party, who desire that Party agents shall be employed by and under the direct control of the National E.C.

We cannot do more than briefly refer to some of the other proposed changes.

There are several alternative proposals to the present method of election for the National Executive Committee, though we think the E.C.'s own proposals are likely to wipe these others out.

Ealing appears to want "increased and direct representation" of women on the National E.C.—a proposal which appears to us to be swimming against the tide.

The suggestion to elect the National Executive, or at any rate the constituency members of it from the various regional areas of the Party will no doubt give rise to a demonstration by constituency Party representatives, though we think they themselves are divided on this question.

Gorton wants 50 per cent. representation of Constituency Parties on the National E.C., and some others desire the lot.

Chester-le-Street are playing with fire when they ask the Party and the T.U.C. to put into operation the following resolution: "That no person be admitted as an individual member of the Labour Party who is eligible and refuses to become, a member of a Trades Union affiliated to the T.U.C."

The work of recruitment for the Unions thus to be carried on by Local Parties is hardly likely of acceptance without very much more reassertment of a Trades Union interest in politics, and the raising of more political funds by them.

South Battersea desires that individual members of the Labour Party shall be members of a Co-operative Society, but in this case only an expression of opinion is asked for.

Sutton asks for a sort of general credential to be attached to Labour Party membership cards, and for machinery to be set up of a clearing-house nature.

The Hastings resolutions limiting the expenditure of organisations and candidates on their constituencies, comes up on a resolution from Barrow calling for an end to the restrictions, and no doubt a keen debate will result and some telling facts will be put forward.

Lowestoft wants a complete dossier regarding Party finance, Headquarters organisations (staff, salaries, condition of service, superannuation, etc.); constituency organisations, practicability of provincial offices, national propaganda and publicity, etc.

And there we must leave this matter, not having by any means exhausted the interesting and important points to be raised. We trust that on this occasion Constituency Parties will make a special endeavour to send their delegates. We believe that this attendance at Conference will be the best means of securing that the will of the Movement shall prevail and of allaying the many discontents that have arisen.

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### A reader has for Sale the following :—

Parker's "Election Agent and Returning Officer" (Fourth Edition).

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# OUR PROBLEM PAGE

Below will be found five problems which have been presented to us personally or by correspondence in recent weeks. Think out your own reactions to these questions, then turn to page 133 on which will be found our replies.

1. Our Party is carrying on a Membership Campaign. How do you advise us to go canvassing, in singles, in pairs, or in groups? Area, a semi-industrial division. Electorate 58,000.
2. Why doesn't the Labour Party arrange with a foreign station for a series of broadcasts on "Labour's Immediate Programme"? There's no hope in the B.B.C.
3. I am an agent employed by the Local Labour Party. My candidate takes exception to one or two points in Labour's policy, and though generally, even fiercely, loyal to the Party, he expresses sometimes his minority views. Is it my duty to correct him, and do so publicly?
4. I was a student under the L.P. Study Scheme, and passed the exam. I am now in a constituency, though not as agent, and doing well, and can show good results. But I feel sore when organisational dunderheads often try to wreck my plans and profess to know all about our problems. There "never was such a place as —," so they say.
5. My Party is divided about the Middle Classes. Some would hand the Party over to them, believing them to be the salt of the earth. Others say, they'll sell the working classes. What does the "Labour Organiser" say?

# SHALL WE SAY IT WITH POSTERS?

That posters, or at any rate some posters, provide a powerful means of influencing the public mind was proved beyond the shadow of doubt by the London Labour Party in its County Council Campaign this year. The full hoardings themselves may of course also be quoted, for surely no advertiser persists without securing a return.

As to the ethics of poster propaganda we have our own view. Few posters "put across" a reasoned case, or make an appeal to reason. They are mostly an appeal to impulse, sometimes to passion, occasionally to hate, false patriotism, or even snobbery, with other impulses just as degrading. (To what impulse does "Beer is Best" appeal?)

A strict moralist would, we think, rule out the poster from political propaganda (*pace* Londoners — the exception proves the rule).

But as the poster and the hoardings are still with us—and although we have more in keeping with the Scapa Society than with the Billposters—Labour organisers must sit up and take notice when a method of propaganda which was rather falling into disuse if not disrepute in our ranks suddenly accomplishes something sensational.

The one danger which Mr. Morrison's posters are confronted with, is that so many people are now wanting to say it with posters, and the one thing they cannot appreciate is that the opportunities and the circumstances regarding this matter differ enormously over the country. Assuredly in this matter "what is one man's meat is another man's poison" has a special significance.

The essentials of a poster campaign are :—

- (1) That your poster is itself of paramount merit and that it will be read above, beyond and in front of all others on the hoardings ;
2. That the hoardings are there to be used, and that the space is

available at the time one wants it ;

- (3) That the hoardings are favourably placed, and that the public one wishes to reach does actually see the hoarding, and in sufficient numbers to effect the publicity one pays for.

As regards the first essential we have few poster experts in the Labour Party, and we say without hesitation that lots and lots of the posters published by our election agents have not been worth the cost of posting. Bad draughtsmanship has been at the root of most of the troubles, but bad printing, ill-selected colours, and wrong and insufficient size have all contributed to deserve our condemnation.

If a golden rule is needed on this question we would say : if you haven't got an outstanding message and first-rate poster, don't waste Labour money on posting.

Regarding the second consideration let it be remembered that areas differ widely in their facilities. There are urban areas in the country which are magnificently catered for in this respect (though to be magnificently catered for is to offend one's conceptions of what ought to adorn our public places). There are other places, particularly in country areas and small towns where there are no facilities, or such poor ones as to make poster work a sheer impossibility or a wicked waste of money.

But the error commonly made is that of assuming that hoarding space is elastic ; that irregular advertisers like Local Labour Parties can come on the hoardings at any time without notice and secure the best prominence.

Who thinks of negotiating for space with a billposter some weeks ahead ? Yet, after all, this is precisely what advertising firms must do and do so when planning a campaign.

Labour advertisers, unfortunately, do nothing of the kind, and are apt to say when their posters are inconspicuous



that this is the result of the spite and political bias of the billposter.

Remember, too, that the big-sheet poster *must* have space, but the double-crown and quad crown can be tucked away anywhere and does get tucked away. Some agents have supposed that putting a dozen or more double-crowns gives the same display as the poster sheet of the total size. This is totally wrong supposition. Neither space nor effect can be the same.

As to the third consideration, it is absurd to spend money on posters unless there are sufficient well-placed hoardings to justify the cost.

Most billposters will provide a list of their hoardings, and it is a wrong approach to this matter, whether at an election or at any other time, to say that one *must* put up some posters, or a given quantity of posters, as a necessary part of one's campaign.

In country districts, particularly, posters are often so badly placed as to be of little value. Local enquiry and local knowledge should be brought into play before deciding upon a course. It is all very well to quote London's example, but it must be remembered that the London Labour Party has a population of seven million, and an even larger day population, and also that London's population is daily moving about to a larger extent, we believe, than any comparable unit. It would not be true, for instance, to say that the population which lies within a twenty-five mile radius of the centre of Manchester—a larger population than London's—moves about in the same way, or travels to and fro.

A hoarding to be of any use at all must be where it is seen, and it must be seen by a sufficient number of people.

There are other considerations which govern the question of the use and value of billposting. Cost must be considered, and cost in relation to the cost of alternative methods of publicity. Billposting costs themselves are not uniform. We ourselves have recently bought space at as low a price as 10pence per double crown, and we have also recently bought space at 10pence per double crown. The latter is a very high price to pay for really effective poster work, in an area well covered with posting stations, and yet the presence of so many stations may dictate the necessity of adopting this method.

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We could wish that the advice tendered to Local Labour Parties so many times in the "Labour Organiser" to acquire one's own stations, or develop one's own opportunities for bill posting, had been more generally adopted. There is an enormous amount of excellent space under the control of Labour Parties and Labour Clubs, and it is ill-used. It is probable that some of this is lost for ever owing to the operation of by-laws which prohibit new stations.

Clay Cross Divisional Labour Party has just concluded a vigorous one-week membership campaign. We heartily congratulate the Party, and its able Organising Secretary, Mr. J. W. French, on the vigour and enterprise shown. A four-page news sheet was issued in connection with the campaign, and that production alone and its distribution was a substantial piece of work. We shall be interested to learn the final results of the campaign.

Peterborough Labour Party has just commenced the publication of an eight-page monthly, which is to be known as "The Clarion." The paper seems to be in series with one of similar name published by the Nuneaton D.L.P. and printed by our friends the Ripley Printing Society Ltd.

# LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY

(Recording all alterations since issue of last Annual Report.)

## KEY TO INDEX LETTERS REPRESENTING LABOUR PARTY ORGANISING DISTRICTS.

A North-Eastern District  
B North-Western District  
C Midlands District  
D Southern and Home Counties District  
E London District

F South-Western District  
G Eastern District  
H Wales  
J Scotland  
K Universities

## KEY TO NATURE OF CONSTITUENCY

(CD) County Divisions  
(SB) Single-membered Boroughs  
(DMB) Double-membered Boroughs

(DB) Divisional Boroughs  
(BD) Borough Divisions  
(U) Universities

## CORRECTIONS RECORDED SINCE LAST L.P. ANNUAL REPORT

Constituency Numbers : D1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 25, 31, B31, 43, 48, 50, 51, 52, F54, 57, F57, 58, A61, 62, 65, 67, A74, 84, 85/88, G85/88, G88, 89, 91, 92, 103, 106, C106, 107, 109, 110, 113, 115, 116, 117, 121, 125, G126, 128, 131, 139, D140, 143, B147, B149, 150, 153, 159, 160, 164, B172, 174, 179, 181, 184, 202, 206, 207, 208, 211, C211, G216, 218, 220, 221, 226/27, 227, 228/31, E232, E232, 235, E237, 239/41, 242, E242/42, 243, 244, E244, E245, 246/9, 246, E250, E251, E252, E255, 258/9, E258/9, E265, E266, 270/72, 275, 278, E279, 279/80, 280, 283, D283, 285, D285, 290, 291, D296, 299, G302, 303, G304, 313, A313, 314, 317, 319, 332, 334, 337, 338, 340, 354, G364, G365, 366, 370, 373, 381, D381, D383, 389, 390, 393, C393, 395, 397, 401, 411, 420, 427/30, 428, 435, 437/8, 450, 452, 453, 463, 470, 472, 473, 477, H478, H484, 487, H490/91, H497, 498, H499, 499, 510/11, 510, 511, 518, 523, J523, 524, 527, 528, J533, 540, J537/51, 542, J544, 548, 551, J551, 552, 554, 558, J573, J576, 570, 653.

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| No.     | tion | Name of Organisation           | Present Secretary and Address   |
|---------|------|--------------------------------|---|
| F30     | CD   | St. Ives D.L.P. <i>Delete</i>  | Mr. W. J. ROGERS.   |
| C37     | CD   | Belper D.L.P.                  | Mrs. A. E. SPIVEY, Belper Labour Party, Labour Hall, Belper, Derbyshire.      |
| C44     | CD   | W. Derbyshire D.L.P.           | Mr. H. BEYNON, B.A., Eccles Vale, Canterbury Terrace, Wirksworth, Derbyshire. |
| G81     | BD   | W. Leyton D.L.P.               | Mr. H. R. UNDERHILL, 9, Wilmot Rd., Leyton, London, E.10.                     |
| D142A   | CD   | Sevenoaks D.L.P. <i>Delete</i> | Mr. G. MACRO, 15, Council Cottages, Westerham, Kent.                          |
| B169    | BD   | Manchester Exchange D.L.P.     | Mr. J. GERSHMAN, 11, Crummock St., Hightown, Manchester, 8.                   |
| B171    | BD   | Hulme D.L.P.                   | Mr. W. DONOGHUE, 139, Princess Rd., Manchester, 14.                           |
| B179    | SB   | Rochdale T. & L.C.             | Mr. NOEL FIELDING, 26, Toad Lane, Rochdale, Lancs.                            |
| B186    | SB   | Warrington T.C. & L.P.         | Coun. P. MARTIN, 52, Church St., Warrington, Lancs.                           |
| B188    | CD   | Chorley D.L.P.                 | Coun. W. D. STANSFIELD, Labour Rooms, Halliwell St., Chorley, Lancs.          |
| B199    | CD   | Newton-le-Willows D.L.P.       | Coun. J. SELWYN-JONES, Ivy Cottage, Crow Lane East, Newton-le-Willows, Lancs. |
| E226/27 | DB   | Bethnal Green (Boro') D.L.P.   | Coun. H. E. TATE, J.P., 349, Cambridge Rd., Bethnal Green, London, E.2.       |
| E232    | SB   | Chelsea L.P. & T.C.            | Mrs. A. FRASER, 26, Paulton Square, London, S.W.3.                            |
| E235    | SB   | Finsbury D.L.P.                | Coun. Miss E. M. KELLY, 32, Busaco St., London, N.1.                          |



|          |                          |   |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
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| A313 BD  | Newcastle Central D.L.P. | Mr. T. BROOK, 46, Bell St., Newcastle-on-Tyne.                              |
| D381 CD  | Reigate D.L.P.           | Mrs. D. ADAMS, 69, Parkway, Dorking, Surrey.                                |
| D383 SB  | Hastings D.L.P.          | Mr. J. W. SPEER, Labour Hall, 6, Cornwallis St., Hastings.                  |
| C394 BD  | Erdington D.L.P.         | Mr. A. OSWALD, 42, Milverton Rd., Erdington, Birmingham.                    |
| F409 CD  | Devizes D.L.P.           | Mr. S. F. GOODCHILD, J.P., 4, Cross Lane, Marlborough, Wilts.               |
| C413X SB | Dudley D.L.P.            | Mr. A. SPEAKE, 51, Bunns Lane, Dudley, Worcs.                               |
| A429 BD  | N.W. Hull D.L.P.         | Mr. BEN WILSON, 31, Derringham St., Hull.                                   |
| A442 BD  | Sheffield Central D.L.P. | Mr. H. J. M. CHILTON, 30, Withens Avenue, Sheffield, 6.                     |
| H476 CD  | Brecon & Radnor D.L.P.   | Mr. E. L. PELLOW, Cross Oak, Talybont-on-Usk, Breconshire.                  |
| H479 CD  | Llandaff & Barry D.L.P.  | Mr. A. E. GOUGH, J.P., West End Labour Club, St. Nicholas Rd., Barry, Glam. |
| J510 BD  | N. Aberdeen D.L.P.       | Mr. W. URQUHART, 22, Gallowgate, Aberdeen.                                  |
| J551 BD  | Tradeston D.L.P.         | Mr. C. O'BRIEN, 153, Brand St., Glasgow, S.W.1.                             |

## IS REDISTRIBUTION COMING ?

In reply to a deputation of supporters, who desire to see a measure of Redistribution passed during the life of the present Parliament, the Prime Minister on the 12th inst. gave a promise to consider this matter.

The deputation consisted of the Members for East Lewisham (electorate 87,178); Blackpool (100,529); Harrow (130,716); Hendon (164,802); Southend (85,815); and Huddersfield (83,103).

It is interesting to record that the largest single-membered constituency is Romford, held by Labour. Here is an electorate approaching 190,000, and the Labour Party in this constituency has over 7,000 members (see May and June "L.O.").

In contrast with the above figures it has been pointed out that there are ten constituencies with less than 30,000 electors each, the average being just over 50,000.

Those of our readers who are tempted to call for legislation are reminded that Redistribution is hardly likely to come by itself. Almost certainly there would be some tampering with the franchise and election laws. And who trusts the Tories in this matter?

## COMPETITION CARDS

We are pleased to state that although the cost of printing materials has greatly advanced in price, we are still able to maintain our standard and popular prices for

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# SOCIAL EFFORT *versus*

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

This is an extract from a letter which reached us a day or two ago:—

"The whole of the energies of the best workers within the Party are being absorbed in running social events, raffles, etc., to raise money to carry on the work of the Party. The essential work is suffering in consequence."

That this is a position that has been developing in certain Parties for some time is a fact of which we have become painfully conscious. It is worth while looking for the causes and the remedies.

In the case under notice an Agent is employed, and the Hastings resolutions are blamed as being responsible for this urge to raise money by any means. If this is the case, National Headquarters would be well advised to re-examine this matter in the light of such experiences.

But at the same time, as we receive this letter, and several others of similar import, we have before us the experience of a recent Party meeting, where an individual membership campaign, or efforts to get individual members at all, were frowned upon because it was held that "the way to keep members together is by social effort," i.e., to run dances, band contests, whist drives, carnivals and the like.

This later inclination is one we feel must be controverted. It just will not build us a Socialist Party, and we think that where social work is becoming the master of the Party instead of the Party being the master of its social work, there is a case for immediate enquiry.

We are profound believers in Labour Parties undertaking social work in reason. We agree that it keeps members together; it provides finance, and it develops a field of influence which serves as a hunting ground for normal Party activity.

But the essential work of a Local Labour Party is to build a conscious political machine. Social work alone never can and never will give Labour the power it thirsts after. Those who

rely upon it alone as a means for cementing Labour supporters may expect some day a rude awakening.

If your Party is going the way indicated we advise that the situation be examined in the light of the above remarks. On the other hand, those Parties which do no social work at all neglect their opportunities and leave themselves open to activities of this sort being taken up even in our own ranks by our enemies. And the latter never fail to make hay while the sun shines.

### LABOUR JOURNALS PLEASE COPY

## TATTOO

From the Daily Herald,  
15th June, 1937.

### EXTRACT FROM A PARISH MAGAZINE

"Hundreds of thousands of our people will witness one of those literally whited sepulchres euphemistically called 'tattoos' during the next two months. Whited sepulchres because they present war under the aspect of a glorious adventure, instead of showing it as it is—a filthy, bestial shambles.

"They glorify a foul plot on humanity. They nourish national pride.

"Franco's destruction of Guernica is what war will be like—not the crash of military bands and the singing of 'Abide with Me' as the final blasphemy of the tattoo.

"If you who read this are going to be present at one of the tattoos this summer, think of the millions slain and mutilated in the Great War, the devastation and the broken hearts.

"When the grand finale of that gorgeous heart-stirring pageant comes, when the strains of 'Abide with Me' have died away, will you, as you wipe the tears of patriotism from your eyes, remember that you, as an individual, have been glorifying mass murder and worshipping a whited sepulchre."

## WANTED

April copies of the "L.O." Urgent.  
Write - The Editor.



# NOW FOR THOSE PROBLEMS

See Page 127

## I. THE WAY TO CANVASS

1. The manner in which canvassing for members is to be conducted is of necessity dependent upon the experience and pluck of the canvassers. Excellent results have been achieved by individuals canvassing "off their own bat," but it must be admitted that the number of such capable canvassers in our ranks is very strictly limited. Further, the service of such canvassers are generally required to stiffen the courage of less sophisticated workers. As a consequence we do not commend this method for general adoption.

Canvassing in couples has always been an effective method, both for ordinary election canvassing and in connection with membership campaigns. But to assort couples beforehand, or for couples to sort themselves out and go off on a piece of planned work seems to suggest that there are only two people to do the job.

To send a band of canvassers out is, in our opinion, the better way, provided some person is definitely in charge, and the authority of that person is accepted and maintained. It will be such person who will decide the actual doorstep to doorstep order of canvassing, i.e., whether some persons will go singly and others in couples—never go more than two at a door—and whether the street will be canvassed both sides at a time, or by groups of canvassers working from opposite ends towards each other, etc.

Group canvassing can be a very muddled affair unless proper order is maintained, and few groups of canvassers are lucky enough to have no shirker or retiring comrade among the crowd. But if proper direction is given, workers are trained by group canvassing, shyness is conquered, and far more can be accomplished.

## 2. SHOULD LABOUR BROADCAST FROM FOREIGN STATIONS?

2. The Labour Party probably has not arranged for broadcasts from a foreign station simply because that plan is not likely to carry it anywhere.

Assuming the possibility of arranging a political broadcast from a foreign State, is it to be thought for one moment that our opponents would leave the field to us? Would it not be much more likely that the wealth they can command would overwhelm our own efforts in this direction and make the last state worse than the first? However desirable it may be to get "Labour's Immediate Programme"

known in every household, we believe there are more practical and sensible ways of accomplishing it. Nor must one forget that people can switch off anything they don't desire to hear.

Our friend's question has been raised before in connection with the General Election campaign, but we believe the same answer would apply.

There is another side of this question, and our correspondent assumes the acquiescence of the Government in any plan to influence British politics from abroad. True it is that broadcasts in English come from other

countries, not, however, with the assent or approval of the British Government. But for a British political party to go abroad for its propaganda would probably result in immediate steps being taken to prevent that being done, and the plausible reasons that could be given for such course would doubtless receive widespread support.

As bearing on this subject, we will tell our readers what is being done in connection with certain broadcasts in English for advertising purposes from certain foreign stations.

It is not generally known that on two or three occasions the British Government has sought to prevent these broadcasts by arrangement with

the foreign countries concerned. They have not yet succeeded.

But it is interesting to record that a sinister boycott of these advertising programmes is already in force in this country. No newspaper and no newspaper advertisement ever refers to them. The Newspaper Proprietors' Association sees to that. Indeed, if an advertiser tried to include in an advertisement in one of the daily papers some reference to his programme at Luxemburg, or his advertisement there, such "copy" would be refused.

It is true that this boycott springs from a different motive, but nevertheless, we are certain that the Government would find steps to circumvent a British political broadcast from abroad.

### 3. SHOULD THE AGENT CORRECT THE CANDIDATE?

3. Our friend's query does not disclose either a new or an unusual position, but we have yet to learn that it is an Agent's duty to become the policeman of the Movement and the mentor of his candidate.

We have always conceived that an Agent's function is to secure the health of the Labour Movement in his constituency in a broad and general manner, but with specific reference to the health and strength and fitness of Labour's political machinery. In some cases, and in what are now exceptional circumstances, he may become also the local leader in local government matters. But except in a grave case we think that the interpretation of Labour's policy by his candidate, or rather the policing of it, is outside his function.

Labour candidates have a responsibility both to the local organisation and to national headquarters of the Party. By Party rules the Local Party are the authority to select a candidate, and really no other test of fitness of a candidate is provided than that of question and answer given at a selection meeting.

Theoretically, therefore, it is the Local Party who should first move regarding any infringement or denial

of Party policy, though in practice the Head Office may first ask for explanations. How far an Agent may proceed as a member of his Party is a matter for his discretion, but we would not advise an Agent to make himself prominent in such a matter.

As regards the general question of a candidate's right to differ from accepted policy, a lot may be said for and against. Too strict interpretations of loyalty can well stultify development and change, and lead to persecution. Ours is a Movement which gives the right to freedom of thought, and we submit that in some circumstances a candidate has the right to explain wherein he differs from majority decisions, provided he makes no concealment as to what those decisions are, and agrees to abide by the Standing Orders of the Party.

It is possible that in the future questions may arise where even the decision to abide by the Standing Orders of the Party may be broken from strong motives of conscience, but that day is not here, and it need not trouble our Agent in finding an answer to the question he has put, provided, as we have said, the divergencies of policy are not major differences, and that Labour's programme is accepted in a general sense.



## 4. ORGANISATIONAL DUNDERHEADS AND WHAT ABOUT THEM

4. We are tempted in replying to our friend's query to quote an advertisement which was once widespread, and read: "Man, Know Thyself." Is there not some fault in our comrade which expresses itself in his questions? Not, we submit, a lack of knowledge, but much more likely a lack of patience.

To deal with the material one finds in Local Labour Parties and to weld it into an effective striking force demands skill and, above all, it requires tact, inexhaustible patience and appreciation of the limitations and failings of human nature.

Again and again one finds men of skill and ability who don't possess the charming virtues we have mentioned—probably none of us do in sufficient degree. But it is not right to call the man who differs from you a dunderhead or other terms which our correspondent uses in his letter. Dense and exasperating lots of people can be,

but that is the material one has to improve. Certainly one has to use it, and get something out of it, or fail.

We suspect that our friend has been trying to get through some ideas in organisation which have been too much for some of his Party to understand. After all, organisation is a skilled trade, and the rank and file of the Party cannot be expected always to understand.

But we submit there is a way of spreading knowledge and understanding of organisational principles. Has our friend tried a few lectures on organisation, some reading up of the matter at Party meetings, the circulation of booklets like "Party Organisation" and a magazine like the "Labour Organiser"?

The principles of organisation must be understood among Local Parties if the practice of it is to be a success. We hope our friend will try this, and we are sure there will be no cause for regrets.

## 5. THE MIDDLE CLASSES

### IT'S NOT ALL — "JAM IN THE MIDDLE"

5. Our readers will hardly adjudge our correspondent to be of the middle classes himself. Nor is he, which fact we do not hold to his discredit.

In the first place, who are the middle classes? Though economically the class war may divide society into two classes, socially other and more numerous divisions have arisen. Nobody can lay down the delimitation of these divisions; no one can even say with exactitude who comprise the manual workers, for is not a dentist a manual worker? Nor can the professional classes be segregated with any more certainty; and the "upper" classes may even be poor and dependent upon certain forms of work for their income.

The middle classes themselves may be divided broadly into "upper" and "lower," and there are heaps of people

whose economic interests, by every standard of employment and wage (or salary), should be regarded as "working class," but who would be offended to be so included. These people are often the most class-conscious among the middle classes.

For purposes of reply, therefore, we can only assume that we understand each other on these matters, and that the middle class referred to is, broadly, that cuff and collar brigade which regards itself as a cut above the manual worker, plus the great professional classes, the "comfortable" classes and last, but not least, "the intellectuals," of most of whom God alone often knows how they live.

Well, we ourselves, despite sometimes the effort of friends, have never numbered ourselves among the middle classes. The Editor is a *worker*, and

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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a hard one at that, and had no silver spoon in his mouth at birth. We declare this to avoid misconceptions.

It is sometimes said that no one except those who have experienced poverty and have found themselves between the upper and nether millstone can ever really enter into the soul and mind of the rebel who has been through these experiences. It follows from this belief that a member of neither the middle classes or the upper classes can quite see eye to eye with his working-class brother.

We have in our time subscribed to this doctrine, not that it mattered much, for the march of society, the breaking down of barriers and other complications have tended to set this fact more and more in the background, until to-day we would say that it doesn't matter a fig.

Of course, we shall be criticised for this, but who can deny the present-day mixing of society and the opportunities each class has for knowing the mode of life of other classes? And have we not had evidenced again and again the fact that a person from a class "above" may by sheer reasoning, not to say impulse or sympathy, become even more valiant a champion of a "lower" class than the members of that class themselves?

We think, therefore, that class suspicion must be banished from a consideration of this question. The thing that matters is whether or no the classes can mix and function in our present-day machinery, and for our Party's ends and objects.

On this matter we must remember that ours is a People's Party. Its object is to secure the fruits of their labour for all who labour, by hand or by brain. And there is an obligation on *all* members of the Party to make this far-flung front effective and to work within it as one unit.

When a man or woman enters the Labour Party class should be left behind. A man or woman of superior education must sometimes find working-class ways most trying. Equally the middle classes have their faults and affectations which jar on more lowly aspiring comrades.

Let it also be said that there are "intellectuals" who claim that they or their class will be the ones to lead us

out of the morass, and that it is they who will direct the society of the future. May be. But there is another class and a larger one among the workers who think only in terms of manual workers. The Labour Party seeks to combine these interests and to get them to work on a common field.

For a long time yet there may be friction, suspicion and difficulties and lack of understanding, but unless the middle classes are won over there is little hope for our brand of Socialism. One wonders whether as a Party we have sufficiently developed specialised lines on which the middle classes can function, besides their normal work within the Party. Workers have their Unions and sometimes have sports. It would not be hard to think out special spheres of usefulness for the others which would enable them to practice quite seriously the stratified electioneering of which Sidney Webb used to speak.

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*(Concluded from page 140)*

visits, the suggestion by the International that the Woodcraft Folk organise the biennial Republic in England was readily agreed to.

Therefore this summer will see a co-operative community, democratically governed, spring up in Sussex, complete with telephone and electric light installed, hospital, water mains, huge central kitchens, stores, offices, marquees, sports grounds, craft rooms, etc., where children of ten different countries will be mingling together, playing, singing, acting, hiking and learning the benefits of international friendships.

Special visitors' days are also being organised, one of which will be a "Peace Day." As Woodcraft Folk groups from all over England and Scotland will be attending, it is expected that local Guilds, Labour Parties, etc., will also be sending parties from wide areas to see this great venture. Already many sympathetic working-class organisations have enquired for details, whilst many have promised moral support and financial support. All enquiries on the camp will now be dealt with by the organiser, Mr. Henry Fair, 78, Hydethorpe Road, Balham, London, S.W.12.



# QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

## Tints for Letterheads

*Question.* In our May "Labour Organiser" you gave us some hints on what is called "colour legibility." That was about combinations of colours, but can you give us any news about the most fetching colour for a one-colour job—say my headed notepaper, of which we use a lot.

*Answer.* How one question suggests another. We had thought we had finished with this matter. We have found an expert answer to the question from the same source as before as follows:—

Tests of white and tinted paper used for letter headings in direct mail advertising for a series of "try-out" campaigns have brought the following results in terms of results:—

|              |     |               |     |
|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| White .....  | 18% | Light Blue .. | 10% |
| Buff .....   | 20  | Green .....   | 16  |
| Lemon .....  | 22  | Gold .....    | 25  |
| Salmon ..... | 17  | Pink .....    | 26  |

As there are so many factors calculated to have an effect upon the returns, such as the offer itself and its presentation in the letter, the pull of the literature itself, etc., the figures cannot be taken too literally.

White letter heading is held to have the longest or most sustained pull over other tints.

## Should the Candidate Contribute?

*Question.* When this Party selected its Parliamentary candidate we had no other desire than to select the best man, and we did not seek or expect any contribution from the candidate. Matters, however, have got very tight with us, and our candidate, who is quite well off, never makes a single contribution to anything, and we have even had to pay his lodging bills on occasions, and he has charged us expenses for visiting the constituency. Some of our members are getting restless about this matter, and it is killing some

people's enthusiasm. Don't you think we ought to ask him for some money?

*Answer.* We should not like to give our correspondent a specific Yea or Nay in answer to his question, for the members of his Party must make up their own minds in the matter. There are, however, certain considerations that might be put.

In the first place it is a healthy sign when a Labour Party selects its candidate entirely without regard to that person's financial position, and without any expectations of support. Thus far a Party is in accord with democratic principles.

On the other hand, we do not feel that a Party has any reason for shame in negotiating with a candidate what the latter shall contribute to the funds. Such negotiations only become reprehensible when they take on the nature of bargaining, and the candidature is put forward as a thing to be bought and sold. Even having said this, one must make a reservation regarding a few places where circumstances are so peculiar that only a candidate who can subscribe to the funds can be assured of the maximum effort.

On broad, general principles we believe that candidates should contribute to the funds in accordance with their means, but the judge of such means can hardly be the constituents themselves. A poor man obviously cannot contribute, and even some seeming well-off men are not so wealthy as is thought, and there are hidden costs of a candidate which should be remembered—travelling, entertaining, loss of business, correspondence, books, etc., etc.—not to mention sundry donations here and there.

Before coming to a conclusion that a candidate is not pulling his weight financially, the Party should consider these matters, and still think generously rather than squeamishly. We have, however, no patience with a candidate who expects all sorts of



effort from voluntary workers in his constituency and makes no sacrifice himself. Where a candidate is possessed of money we do not think it is right to claim that his sacrifice is represented solely by the efforts he makes in the constituency to secure his own election. Every man who can afford it should contribute, but beyond saying this we cannot give advice in individual cases.

### The Ill-Use and Right Use of Loudspeakers

*Question.* In the adjoining constituency our friends have bought a loud-speaker, and it is going full-tilt every night. "Din and damage" I call it, and I am certain that too much of this sort of thing is making people sick of the Labour Party. But our constituency could do with a loud-speaker, and it is rather a different type, because we have a big and rather scattered area to cover, and lots of places where the loud-speaker would prove useful, being the only means by which a successful outdoor meeting can be held.

Now our people want to buy a loud-speaker, but don't want to see what is happening next door happen here. How would you advise me to proceed?

*Answer.* We quite agree that "din and damage" aptly describes what certain comrades effect when travelling with a loud-speaker, but we should not let the wrong use of a loud-speaker in a neighbouring constituency deter us from making proper use of one in another constituency.

A loud-speaker, like fire, is a good servant but a bad master. Many people seem to think that one must blurt forth at full volume the whole time, when, as a matter of fact, most of the models on the market require toning down considerably when used in built-up areas.

There are some people who will never succeed over the mike. They must shout and behave exactly as they would do if speaking into the open spaces. Indeed, this fault was common before loud-speakers came to help us. The bawler always succeeded in keeping his crowd at a distance, so that nobody seemed to be attending the meeting, and there would be little

opportunity for collections or sale of literature. The man with the smaller voice often got on better.

It is the same with the loud-speaker. If people can hear without the effort of coming near the speaker, they will choose the path of least resistance. It is far more sensible, we think, when using a loud-speaker, to begin without it, or to fiddle round with it, always remembering that it is curiosity which mostly catches the crowd.

One way of handling the matter is to put the gramophone on at the start of proceedings, but for the Chairman to speak without the mike, only using the latter when the crowd begins to swell.

Another evil is that of using the loud-speaker in a place where an echo is certain. The hammering and jammering which some people seem to think is a necessary concomitant to loud-speaker work is another entirely unnecessary effect.

We quite agree that our correspondent's constituency is an ideal place for the use of a loud-speaker, and with attention to the above points such instrument should prove a valuable addition to the Party's propaganda weapons.

Nearly 700 copies of "Labour's Immediate Programme" were sold during the Cheltenham by-election. Perhaps this work will bear fruit on a future occasion, because except for Labour's convinced vote the whole Borough was interested in a dog-fight between the Tory Mayor (the winner) and the official Tory.

Do ALL the officers  
of your Party get  
the "L.O."?



IF NOT - WHY NOT?

## MR. CHAIRMAN— TAKE NOTICE!

Having recently sat for 4½ hours under the appalling Chairmanship of a really nice and well-meaning comrade, one came away wondering whether it would not be wise on the part of the Labour Party to try and train the Chairmen of Local Parties. Though for that matter we have heard that even for Party Conferences a training might be useful. No names, no pack drill.

There are, of course, several little books on Chairmanship which could be presented to the worthy officers who serve as Chairmen, or Chairwomen. But we want to put in an appeal to save this cost.

It is not a knowledge of rules that most Chairmen need, but a knowledge of human nature. They do not require to know when Tom, Dick or Harry offend the rules of debate, but when to knock off themselves; how to draw a debate to a peaceful and happy conclusion, and how to circumvent the interminable terminology and verbosity of insufferable mouthers, and how to put a proposition to a meeting without wasting valuable time.

Again and again we have met friends who have attended Labour meetings for the first time, and have vowed "never again." With some Chairmen the trouble is an inferiority complex; with others it is just the opposite, though the effect is the same—long-drawn-out discussions, ambling, rambling speeches; slow and laboured decisions; stupid opportunities for amendments, and hesitation from beginning to end.

We have been at pains to discover why certain of our elected persons have ceased to attend Party meetings. Again and again we have discovered that the irksomeness of meetings and the slow deliberations thereof have been at the root of matters, coming in contrast as they did with efficient conduct of business at Council meetings and Committees.

Will Chairmen please take notice!

Here are some of the directions in which they might mend their way:

- (1) It is *not* necessary after each resolution to pause for amendments;
- (2) it is *not* necessary when mem-

bers have done speaking to pause and wait, and almost beg "have you all done?" (3) it is *not* necessary to accept resolutions of a pettifogging nature, instructing the Secretary to do this or that or the other thing—things which he would do in the normal course of his functions. Why add to the burden of the minutes? (4) it is necessary to keep an eye on the clock and to form some estimate of what time can be afforded to various items of business, having in mind the proper hour for adjournment, and the completion of the agenda; (5) it is necessary to deprecate discussion where discussion is obviously premature, unnecessary, or where the matter was discussed at the last meeting; (6) the item "matters arising out of minutes" is *not* intended as a means whereby all the decisions of the last meeting can be challenged. It is the opportunity for questions and information only; (7) your own job is to act as Chairman, and if you want to talk get on the floor where you will have a Chairman to control you. It is an abuse of Chairmanship to both preside and speak.

If some Chairmen don't soon mend their ways we shall have to advocate that school for Chairmen. And it will be an elementary school, too.

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## THE WOODCRAFT FOLK

The first venture of its kind in England is now taking shape with the organisation by the Woodcraft Folk (the co-operative children's organisation) of a great International Children's Republic, to be held at Brighton in August, when over 3,000 children and their leaders will be camping out on the slopes of the South Downs.

Although the Woodcraft Folk have been established for over ten years they have up till recently only organised small local or regional camps, but since they have affiliated to the Socialist Educational International, small parties have visited foreign children's camps in Switzerland and France. With the inspiration of such camps and the lessons of international friendship and solidarity learnt by such

(Concluded on page 137)